

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NSC-10 H-02 PRS-01 RSC-01 SSO-00

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DRAFTED BY S/ S: T. ELIOT

4/18/73 21512

APPROVED BY S/ S- O: S. FRY

WHITE HOUSE: MR. HACKETT

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

S/ S WHITE HOUSE H EUR S/ PRS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR; UR

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

1. ON MORNING APRIL 18, WHITE HOUSE BRIEFED CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET EMIGRATION POLICY.

2. FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER SCOTT REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE RUSSIANS SAID THEY WILL SUSPEND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATION TAX UNDER WHICH SOME JEWS WITH GRADUATE DEGREES HAVE BEEN CHARGED UP TO DOLLARS 35,000 TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. SCOTT REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE RUSSIAN DECREE PASSED LAST YEAR WILL REMAIN ON THE BOOKS, BUT ITS OPERATION WILL BE SUSPENDED. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SCOTT SAID THAT HENRY KISSINGER READ TO THE CONGRESSIONAL GROUP TWO COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. ONE WAS RECEIVED IN THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. THE OTHER WAS RECEIVED IN MARCH, HE SAID. SCOTT IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING TO THE PRESS THAT " WE UNDERSTAND THE RUSSIANS WILL ALLOW EMIGRATION

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EXCEPT IN A FEW CASES LIMITED TO MATTERS OF STATE SECURITY."

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN IS CONFIRMING THAT SENATOR SCOTT'S ACCOUNT OF THE BRIEFING IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT.

4. THE EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO USE THE FOREGOING IN BRIEFING CODEL HARTKE. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE073433
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: T. ELIOT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730451/aaaaiwou.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980202
Subject: WHITE HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING
TAGS: PFOR, UR, n/a
To: BRUSSELS
MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005